

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A stand for ~~a camera~~ use with different-sized cameras, comprising:

an upper section including a platform adapted to support the ~~camerac~~cameras and a camera mounting mechanism adapted to secure the cameras to the platform, wherein the camera mounting mechanism includes a plurality of openings defined by the platform and at least one strap selectively positionable between selected ones of the openings to secure the cameras to the platform in selected positions, wherein an opening-to-strap ratio is greater than two-to-one so that at least one of the openings is unoccupied by the at least one strap when then stand is in use, wherein a first-sized one of the cameras is positionable with the at least one strap positioned between a first and a second one of the openings and a second-sized one of the cameras is positionable with the at least one strap positioned between a third and a fourth one of the openings;

a lower section including an anchor adapted to support the upper section in an upright position; and

an adjustment mechanism for vertically and rotationally moving the platform relative to the anchor to selectively aim the ~~camerac~~cameras.

2. (original) The camera stand of Claim 1, wherein:

the upper section includes an upper shaft extending downward from the platform;

the lower section includes a lower shaft extending upward from the anchor; and

the adjustment mechanism includes a vertical adjustment coupling between the upper shaft and the lower shaft.

3. (original) The camera stand of Claim 2, wherein the upper shaft and the lower shaft are telescopically arranged to form the vertical adjustment coupling of the adjustment mechanism.
4. (original) The camera stand of Claim 1, wherein:
 - the upper section includes an upper shaft extending downward from the platform;
 - the lower section includes a lower shaft extending upward from the anchor; and
 - the adjustment mechanism includes a rotational adjustment coupling between the upper shaft and the lower shaft.
5. (original) The camera stand of Claim 4, wherein the upper shaft and the lower shaft are telescopically arranged to form the rotational adjustment coupling of the adjustment mechanism.
- 6-9. (canceled)
10. (original) The camera stand of Claim 1, wherein:
 - the upper section includes an upper shaft extending downward from the platform;
 - the lower section includes a lower shaft extending upward from the anchor; and
 - the platform defines an opening that receives the lower shaft when the lower section is detached from and inverted relative to the upper section, wherein the stand can be arranged in a compact configuration for storage and shipment.
11. (original) The camera stand of Claim 10, wherein:
 - the upper shaft is hollow; and
 - the platform opening is aligned with the hollow upper shaft, wherein the lower shaft is receivable in the hollow upper shaft when the lower section is detached from and inverted relative to the upper section.

12. (original) The camera stand of Claim 10, wherein the platform includes a horizontal support section and a vertical back section extending therefrom, the lower section includes at least one foot assist member attached to the lower shaft, and wherein:

the upper shaft has a length that is substantially the same as a length of the lower shaft above the foot assists;

the platform back section has a height that is substantially the same as a length of the lower shaft below the foot assists;

the platform support section has a width that is substantially the same as a length of the foot assist member; and

the platform support section has a depth that is substantially the same as a width of the foot assist member.

13. (original) The camera stand of Claim 1, where the anchor is adapted for inserting into ground.

14. (original) The camera stand of Claim 1, wherein the lower section includes two or more foot assists for ease of installation, and at least two side anchors extending downward from the foot assists for inserting into ground for increased stability.

15. (currently amended) A stand for a camera, comprising:

an upper section including a platform adapted to support the camera, a camera mounting mechanism adapted to secure the camera to the platform, and a hollow upper shaft extending downward from the platform, the platform defining a shaft opening that is aligned with the hollow upper shaft;

a lower section including an anchor adapted to insert into ground and support the upper section in an upright position, and a lower shaft extending upward from the anchor, and a foot assist member attached to the lower shaft, and at least two side anchors extending downward from the foot assist member the lower shaft telescopically receivable within the hollow upper shaft and through the platform opening;

wherein in a use position the stand is configured with the anchor in the ground and the lower shaft extending upward, and with the hollow upper shaft telescopically slid down at least partially over the lower shaft and the camera platform elevated from the ground, wherein the upper and lower shafts are between the platform and the anchor;
and

wherein in a storage position the stand is compactly configured with the anchor removed from the ground, the hollow upper shaft slid off of the lower shaft and then inverted, and the lower shaft inserted through the shaft opening in the platform and telescopically inserted at least partially into the hollow upper shaft, wherein the platform and the anchor are adjacent each other with the upper and lower shafts not positioned therebetween.

~~an adjustment mechanism comprising a telescopic arrangement of the upper shaft and the lower shaft for vertically and rotationally moving the platform relative to the anchor to selectively aim the camera, and further comprising a securing mechanism adapted to secure the upper section and the lower section in place; and~~

~~the platform defining an opening that is aligned with the hollow upper shaft, wherein the opening receives the lower shaft therethrough and the hollow upper shaft receives the lower shaft therein when the lower section is detached from and inverted~~

~~relative to the upper section, wherein the stand can be arranged in a compact configuration for storage and shipment.~~

16. (currently amended) The camera stand of Claim ~~15~~ 24, wherein the securing mechanism comprises a set screw extendable through the upper section and engagable with the lower section.

17. (original) The camera stand of Claim 15, wherein the camera mounting mechanism comprises at least one strap and at least two vertical series of holes formed in the platform for receiving the strap for selectively positioning and attaching the strap to the platform.

18. (currently amended) The camera stand of Claim ~~15~~ 23, wherein the platform includes a horizontal support section and a vertical back section extending therefrom, and wherein:

the upper shaft has a length that is substantially the same as a length of the lower shaft above the foot ~~assists~~ assist member;

the platform back section has a height that is substantially the same as a length of the ~~lower shaft anchor~~ below the foot ~~assists~~ assist member;

the platform support section has a width that is substantially the same as a length of the foot assist member; and

the platform support section has a depth that is substantially the same as a width of the foot assist member,

wherein when the stand is configured in the storage position with the platform and the anchor adjacent each other, the anchor and the foot assist member do not extend out of a three dimensional box defined by the horizontal support section and the vertical back section of the platform.

19. (currently amended) A method of compactly ~~arranging~~ rearranging a camera stand from a use position to a for-storage position and shipment, comprising;

providing the camera stand with a lower section having a lower shaft and an anchor and with an upper section having an upper shaft and a camera platform defining an a shaft opening, wherein in the use position the stand is configured with the anchor in the ground and the lower shaft extending upward, and with the upper shaft coupled to the lower shaft and the camera platform elevated from the ground, wherein the upper and lower shafts are between the platform and the anchor;

removing the anchor from the ground;

separating the upper shaft from the lower shaft;

inverting the lower shaft; and

~~orienting the lower section in an upright position;~~

~~orienting the upper section in an inverted position; and~~

inserting the ~~inverted~~ lower shaft through the shaft opening in the platform until the platform and the anchor adjacent are each other and the upper and lower shafts are not positioned therebetween.

20. (currently amended) The method of Claim 19, further comprising:

providing the upper shaft as a hollow upper shaft with the platform opening aligned with the hollow upper shaft; and

telescopically inserting the lower shaft into the hollow ~~lower~~ upper shaft after inserting the lower shaft through the platform shaft opening.

21. (new) The camera stand of Claim 1, wherein the platform includes a generally horizontal camera-supporting section and a generally vertical back section extending therefrom, the camera-supporting and back sections having a generally L-shaped profile, and the back section defining the openings, wherein the cameras are weight-supported on the generally horizontal section and secured to the generally vertical section by the camera mounting mechanism, and wherein the at least one strap when positioned between the first and second openings is vertically offset from when positioned between the third and fourth openings.

22. (new) The camera stand of Claim 11, wherein:

in a use position the stand is configured with the anchor in the ground and the lower shaft extending upward, and with the hollow upper shaft telescopically slid down at least partially over the lower shaft and the camera platform elevated from the ground, wherein the upper and lower shafts are between the platform and the anchor; and

in a stored position the stand is compactly configured with the anchor removed from the ground, the hollow upper shaft slid off of the lower shaft and then inverted, and the lower shaft inserted through the shaft opening in the platform and telescopically inserted at least partially into the hollow upper shaft, wherein the platform and the anchor are adjacent each other with the upper and lower shafts not positioned therebetween.

23. (new) The camera stand of Claim 15, wherein the lower section includes two or more foot assist members for ease of installation, and at least two side anchors extending downward from the foot assist members for inserting into ground for increased stability.

24. (new) The camera stand of Claim 15, wherein the telescopic arrangement of the upper shaft and the lower shaft permits the platform to be vertically and rotationally moved relative to the anchor to selectively aim the camera, and further comprising a securing mechanism adapted to secure the upper section and the lower section in place.